

**STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
FULL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
DOVER, DELAWARE**

**Thursday, June 11, 2015**

The June monthly meeting of the Delaware State Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Conference Room A, Dover, Delaware; and the Carvel Building, 820 N. French Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Executive Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

---

**Attendance:**

**Commission Members Present:** Chairperson Calvin Christopher. Commissioners Diaz Bonville, Rose Mary Hendrix, Doug James, Nancy Maihoff, Lorenzo Murdaugh, Olga Ramirez, Walter Smith Jr., and Rosemarie Williams. DAG Paige Schmittinger.

**Commission Members not present:** Commissioner Mashoor Awad (excused), Whittona Burrell (excused), Erika Caesar (excused), Chok-Fun Chui (excused). Wallace Dixon (unexcused), Bernice Edwards (excused), Stephen Elkins (excused), Earnest Gulab (excused), Michael J. Harpe (excused), Gail Launay-Tarlecki (excused), Misty Seemans (unexcused), Roy Sudler Jr. (unexcused), and Robert Watson Jr. (unexcused).

**Staff from Division of Human Relations Office:** Vincent Petroff.

**Members of the public present:** Shane Jackson.

---

**I Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher at 7:10 p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

**II Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the April SHRC meeting were submitted and reviewed. Commissioner Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Maihoff. A vote was taken, motion carries with no opposition.

The minutes for the May SHRC meeting were submitted and reviewed. Commissioner Bonville requested correction to his attendance. He should be excused vs unexcused. Chair Christopher asked that Commissioner Seemans be reflected as acting Chair. Commissioner Bonville made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion seconded by Commissioner Williams. A vote was taken, motion carries with no opposition.

### III Members of the Public Present

Shane Jackson, a parent of a student at Conrad Middle School, to address the Commission. He was asked to be a part of a Diversity Committee at Conrad Middle School. As a part of the Committee he raised concerning the mascot of the school. A sub-committee was formed to request the mascot be retired. Opposition and support for the request were received. The Board disbanded the Mascot sub-committee for a variety of reasons. They were advised that the Board will be organizing their own Committee for this matter. Mr. Jackson is asking for the Commission's assistance in requesting the mascot being retired. Chair Christopher thanked Mr. Jackson for attending the meeting this evening and requested that Mr. Jackson file an official complaint online. Chair Christopher explained the investigative process. A discussion took place whether Mr. Jackson can file the complaint as he is not a member of the affected group. Mr. Jackson was asked if there is a member of the affected group is willing to filing a complaint concerning the matter. Mr. Jackson advised he has a letter of support; but their willingness to file a complaint directly with the Division is unknown. Chair Christopher expressed that the Commission will reach out to Mr. Jackson for further dialog concerning the matter.

### IV Chair's Report

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leaders	Due Date
<u>Death Penalty</u> – Chair Christopher reported the matter is once again in Committee. Commissioner Seemans drafted and submitted a letter to show support the repeal of the Death Penalty. Chair Christopher thanked Commissioner Seemans. Chair Christopher suggested a more proactive and strategic approach on matters such as these.			
<u>Freedom of Information Act</u> – Item to remain on agenda to review.			
<u>Panel Hearing Training</u> – Additional training to be forthcoming for Hearings and Commissioner roles in intake vs investigation.			
<u>Commission Vacancies</u> – Chair Christopher sent an email to Boards and Commissions requesting reappointment of Commissioners whose terms are expiring this month. Chair Christopher reported that he will continue to serve as Chairperson through the			

remainder of Governor Markell's term. At that time a new Chair will be appointed.			
<u>Dover Human Relations Commission</u> – Chair Christopher reported there is a new Chair of the Dover Human Relations Commission is S. Renee Smith. He has spoken with Chair Smith concerning the State Human Relations Commission and the intake process. Chair Christopher has invited her to attend the next Commission meeting. She has expressed interest in participating in training opportunities that may arise.			
<u>Attorney General's Office of Civil Rights &amp; Public Trust</u> – Chair Christopher has been in contact with Director Allison Reardon. She was not available to attend the Commissioner meeting this month. She will be available to attend the July Executive Meeting and a later meeting with the Commission as a whole.	Schedule Director Allison Reardon to attend a SHRC meeting	Chair Christopher	Undefined

## V Director's Report

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leaders	Due Date
Director Fullman is not in attendance this evening. The Director's report was sent electronically prior to the meeting by Kelly Fox. Supervisor Petroff and Chair Christopher were available to take questions on the Director's report. Supervisor Petroff called attention to the Summit on June 16 <sup>th</sup> and asked any Commissioners interested in attending to please contact the Wilmington office.	Contact Wilmington office if interested in attending the Summit on June 16 <sup>th</sup> .	Interested Commissioners	ASAP
Commissioner Maihoff posed a question concerning the Action Item on the Director's Reports she asked who was responsible for these actions. Chair	Respond to Action Item on Director's Report.	Sub-committees	Undefined

Christopher responded that the Sub-committees are responsible for completing that action.			
---	--	--	--

## VI Committee Reports

Topic / Discussion	Actions to be Taken	Leader	Due Date
<p><u>Public Awareness Committee (PAW)</u> – Commissioner James expressed his appreciation for the letter that Commissioner Seemans sent in support of the death penalty repeal.</p> <p>Commissioner James reported that Commissioner Seemans did a Comcast Newsmakers segment to support the repeal of the death penalty.</p> <p>Commissioner James reported that the Cape Gazette article was published concerning the showing of the movie Selma.</p>			
<p><u>Legislative Committee</u> – No report. Chair Christopher expressed his appreciation for the letter that Commissioner Seemans sent in support of the death penalty repeal</p>			
<p><u>Community Response Committee (CRC)</u> – Commissioner Maihoff reported that she received a lead at Peoples Place for a potential Commissioner.</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff thanked Division Staff for the presentation that was given at Peoples Place.</p>			
<p><u>Governor’s Council on Equal Employment Opportunity Committee (GCEEOC)</u> – No report. Chair Christopher mentioned he read a News Journal article concerning Diversity in State employment</p>			

**VII Old Business**

<b>Topic / Discussion</b>	<b>Actions to be Taken</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
None.			

**VIII New Business**

<b>Topic / Discussion</b>	<b>Actions to be Taken</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<p>Paige Schmittenger reported that Zoe Plerhoples is a new staff member to the DAG staff. Zoe will be working with Paige going forward.</p> <p>Supervisor Petroff advised an individual has requested a modification to include a trainer in the service animal section of the Equal Accommodations law. Supervisor Petroff has forward the email to Chair Christopher for his review.</p> <p>Commissioner Bonville reported his 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest daughter received her Master’s Degree in School Counseling from Wilmington University last month.</p>			

**IX Good News**

<b>Topic / Discussion</b>	<b>Actions to be Taken</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Chair Christopher’s daughter recently passed the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Bar exam. She is preparing for the Delaware Bar exam.			

**XI Meeting Adjourned**

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m. by Chair Christopher.